

# Senior Corps Update

## November 1999 Edition



*An update of activities and information published monthly by the National Senior Service Corps for the Senior Corps network and interested National Service colleagues*

*The National Senior Service Corps is part of the Corporation for National Service's network of programs which also includes AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America*

**National Senior Service Corps**  
**Tom Endres, Director**

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### ***Fiscal Year 2000 Appropriations for Labor-HHS and VA-HUD: Latest News***

#### ***Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill -- Senior Corps and VISTA***

Earlier this week, the President vetoed the proposed Labor-HHS appropriations bill, which includes funding for the National Senior Service Corps and AmeriCorps\*VISTA. There will be no final FY 2000 appropriations figures for Labor-HHS funded programs until a revised appropriations bill is passed and signed into law by the President.

The following specific funding decisions were included in the vetoed appropriations bill, related to the Corporation's programs:

*National Senior Service Corps* --The conference agreement provides \$95.8 million for the Foster Grandparent Program, an increase of \$2.5 million over last year's level. The Senior Companion Program receives \$39.7 million, an increase of \$3.1 million over last year's level. The Retired and Senior Volunteer (RSVP) program receives \$46.6 million, an increase of \$3.6 million over last year's level.

*Senior Demonstrations* --The Conference Agreement provides \$1.5 million for demonstration activities. Congress continues the Seniors for Schools program, but provides no funds for Experience Corps for Independent Living. Under the bill, the Corporation will be required to curtail or eliminate several other demonstrations as well.

*AmeriCorps\*VISTA* -- The conference agreement provides \$81 million for VISTA, an increase of \$8 million over last year.

*Program Administration* -- The Conference Agreement provides \$31.1 million for program administration, which is \$2 million above last year's level. This additional funding will assist the Corporation with its financial management and with technology improvements.

*VA-HUD Appropriations Bill -- AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America.*

The President has now signed the VA-HUD appropriations bill into law. The total Corporation budget under the bill is \$438.5 million, including funding for the Inspector General. While this represents the same level of funding that the Corporation received in FY 1999, the Conference Agreement allocates funding among the Corporation's various accounts in a manner that results in a small cut in funding to AmeriCorps grants.

The bill provides the following amounts of money (again, not including the one-percent across-the-board cut proposed in the Labor-HHS bill). AmeriCorps grants receives \$234 million; AmeriCorps\*National Civilian Community Corps receives \$18 million; the National Service Trust receives \$70 million; Learn and Serve America receives \$43 million; and Innovation (subtitle H) receives \$28.5 million. The Corporation also receives \$28.5 million for program administration. The Points of Light Foundation receives a \$2 million increase, from \$5.5 million to \$7.5 million. In addition, the Inspector General's budget was increased from \$3 million to \$4 million.

The bill also rescinds \$80 million of the National Service Trust Fund's reserve. This should not have any immediate impact on the Corporation's ability to meet its obligations to provide education awards to members; however, it could have future ramifications for the expansion of the program to meet the President's goal of 100,000 AmeriCorps members.

***Update of the Corporation for National Service Strategic Plan: Still Time to***

***Comment*** – Under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), the Corporation is required to update and revise its strategic plan for program activities by September 2000. The current strategic plan covers the years 1997-2002 and can be found on the Corporation's web site at [www.nationalservice.org](http://www.nationalservice.org) in .pdf format under the "Research" Section of the main page. There is also a link to the Federal Register on the Corporation's page at the following location:  
<http://www.nationalservice.org/research/92899fedreg.html>

On September 28, 1999, the Corporation published a Request for Public Comments on Revisions to Strategic Plan in the Federal Register (September 28, 1999, Volume 64, Number 187). This public comment period is an initial step in revising the strategic plan, and the Corporation is particularly interested in input from "current and former participants in Corporation-funded national service programs and ... organizations sponsoring national service programs." The Corporation is also consulting with stakeholders in other forums, such as the Senior Corps National Conference in Orlando. The public comment period closes on December 31, 1999. Following the consultation process, the Corporation's Chief Executive Officer will submit any revisions to the Corporation's Board of Directors for final action, and then must submit the approved revised plan to the Office of Management and Budget in September 2000.

***National Senior Service Corps Conference 2000 News –  
June 22 – 23, 2000, Orlando, Florida***

- Call for Proposals has been emailed to all Corporation Field Offices and will be mailed to all Project Directors during the week of November 8, 1999. Project Directors are encouraged to team up with colleagues and submit a proposal. Proposals must be received at the Corporation headquarters office by January 7, 2000. An electronic copy of the Call is on the Corporation's web site: [www.nationalservice.org](http://www.nationalservice.org)  
Go to the National Senior Service Corps page for a copy.
- Project Directors will receive a Conference Housing (hotel room) Reservation Form in December. Room reservations must be made by May 22, 2000. Rooms are being held at the hotel for Project Directors to attend the conference.

**Senior Corps  
Conference  
Information Line:**

**202.606.5000  
extension 190**

Project Directors will also receive a Conference Registration Form in December. The good news is that there will be no fee for Project Directors to attend the conference. However, everyone must register in advance

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***Senior Corps October Policy Corner – RSVP and Volunteers Under the Age of 55***

Recent postings on the Senior Corps list serv, NSSCTALK, discussed involvement of volunteers under the age of 55 in RSVP local projects. Project Directors indicated that RSVP can serve as a “natural conduit” for younger community members, who sometimes accompany their RSVP friends and family members to service activities or events, which speaks highly of the role of RSVP as a volunteer hub in communities.

Clarification questions arose during the NSSCTALK discussions. These questions, and the answers, are included below.

**1. Can volunteers under the age of 55 be enrolled in RSVP and counted as RSVP volunteers?**

No. Federal Regulations specify that an RSVP volunteer must: (1) Be age 55 or older; (2) Agree to serve without compensation; (3) Reside in or nearby the community served by RSVP; and (4) Agree to abide by all requirements as set forth in the regulations.

**2. Can RSVP projects expend funds to provide insurance or reimbursements to volunteers under the age of 55?**

No. Corporation funds and non-Corporation funds included in the Notice of Grant Award (NGA) for volunteer support must be used to support the enrolled RSVP volunteers, who are, by definition, age 55 or older.

**3. What is a suggested response from an RSVP Project Director when a person under the age of 55 expresses interest in volunteering?**

RSVP Project Directors should provide information to encourage the individual to pursue volunteer activities, and should discuss referral options. Referrals could include volunteer stations, Volunteer Centers, AmeriCorps programs, Learn and Serve America programs, and other organizations that seek volunteers.

## *Technology Spotlight –*

***NSSCTALK Move Date is Scheduled for November 5, 1999*** -- Since its inception, St. John's University in New York has hosted the Senior Corps list serv, NSSCTALK. On November 5, 1999, NSSCTALK will move to the National Service Resource Center (NSRC) in California.

By migrating the NSSCTALK listserv from St. John's to NSRC, we will:

- Enhance the level of administration and customer service available to subscribers;
- Integrate NSSCTALK into The Corporation's listserv administration approach and plan;
- Centralize the contact point for listserv questions and assistance needed by subscribers; and
- Ensure that dedicated technical resources and expertise are available to manage the listserv.

### ***What Does This Mean For Subscribers?***

On November 5, 1999, Zachary (Zac) Mutrux, the new list serv administrator, will shut down the list at St. John's and activate the new list at NSRC. All subscribers will be automatically moved over to the new listserv. The main change for subscribers will be the address that mail is sent to, in order to post a message to the list. Just as people have a new address when they move, the listserv will have a new address when it moves. **The new address for posting messages will be [NSSCTALK@LISTS.ETR.ORG](mailto:NSSCTALK@LISTS.ETR.ORG)**

Subscribers may control their subscription settings either by sending traditional email commands or through a Web interface, both of which will be outlined in a welcome message when the new listserv is activated.

Many thanks to John Zelson, Corporation for National Service, and St. John's University for taking care of the listserv until now.

Just to make sure that everyone is clear about the change, Zac will post another reminder in one week. Zac will serve as the new technical contact for the NSSCTALK listserv. Angela Roberts with the Senior Corps will remain the Corporation's liaison for the list serv.

Contact information for Zac Mutrux  
List Serv Administrator

Zachary Mutrux, Webmaster/Database  
Specialist National Service Resource  
Center; ETR Associates  
<http://www.etr.org/nsrc>  
800-860-2684 x.130  
ICQ: 21990620 AIM: NSRC TA  
zacm@etr.org

### ***National Service Resource Center Online – New and Improved!***

The National Service Resource Center recently unveiled its newly redesigned web site. Sporting a colorful new layout, the site is your personal window to the world of community service resources.

New features on the site include **improved navigation tools** such a **site map** and a **search engine**, and **more electronic documents** and **sample forms**. Elements of the old site remain, such as the Master Calendar of National Training and Technical Assistance events, the T/TA Resource Guide, and the searchable Library Catalog.

Visit the National Service Resource Center online at: <http://www.etr.org/nsrc>

***Public Affairs “In Search Of...”*** – The Corporation’s Office of Public Affairs Public Affairs receives numerous requests from the news media about what seniors are doing in and for their communities. Additionally, media outreach efforts are extending to media outlets not reached before. Public Affairs’ ability to respond quickly and accurately to media requests increases opportunities and visibility, nationally and locally. Public Affairs maintains a database of examples and profiles, but needs the help of Project Directors to keep it current and filled with fresh materials. To solicit information, examples and material, Public Affairs developed the “In Search Of ...” feature. Periodically, the Senior Corps Update will ask readers for information and human interest stories that will be included in the database, so that examples are always readily available when promoting Senior Corps volunteers and projects.

Please send your information to Jan Newsome, Public Affairs, 1201 New York Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20525 or e-mail to [jnewsom@cns.gov](mailto:jnewsom@cns.gov)  
Questions, call Jan at (202) 606-5000, ext. 325.

### ***In Search Of .... Volunteers Who ...***

*Were professionals in their business careers and now perform leadership roles in their volunteer capacity;*

*Included some form of volunteerism as part of their pre-retirement planning activities;*

*Are performing in unusual volunteer activities in response to a local problem such as creating disaster relief programs or participating with police in activities to eliminate criminal victimization against the elderly.*

*Found a new creative way to solve a longstanding problem through volunteering.*

### ***Funding Successes for Senior s Projects***

**Michigan – Kalamazoo RSVP** and its sponsor, Senior Services, received a **\$10,000** grant from the Dorothy U. Dalton Foundation to support its Growing Interfaith Volunteer Effort (GIVE) program, which provides in-home support to serve frail seniors and persons with disabilities.

**Tennessee – The Senior Citizens Inc. FGP** of Nashville reported that its “Afghan Fundraiser” netted **\$25,000**.

**Washington – Tacoma/Pierce County RSVP**, sponsored by the American Red Cross, works in partnership with KidReach on the “World Vision” program to develop a children’s literacy coalition to provide tutor training. RSVP received grants of **\$5,000** from Vanguard Charitable Trust and **\$7,000** from the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation to support its involvement.

### ***Kudos to Senior Corps Colleagues and Volunteers Recognized for Excellence!***

**Kansas – Nina Hook**, with the **Volunteer Center RSVP** in Johnson County, was named the county's "Senior Volunteer of the Year". Nina serves as the piano accompanist for the Indian Trail Junior High School Chorus, and also serves as an assistant to the music teacher 36 hours each week through the "Seniors Serving Schools" program.

**Nebraska – Helen Goster**, Foster Grandparent with **Eastern Nebraska FGP**, was honored at the Omaha Salvation Army's "Be A Hero" Luncheon. State Governor Mike Johannes is the "Be A Hero" Committee Chairman. "Grandma Helen" serves as a mentor for female adolescents whose lives are complicated by abandonment, neglect, abuse, substance use, truancy, and pregnancy and early parenthood. She is an outstanding role model, and has earned respect from the girls and staff alike.

**New York – RSVP of Clinton County** received an award for Best Practice Program in Prevention and Intervention of Adult/Elder Abuse from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, the NYS Office for the Aging and the Brookdale Center on Aging. The RSVP project was selected because of its successful efforts to increase awareness and to develop a community approach to the problem of elder abuse. The "RSVP Players" were honored for their performances, which focus on self-neglect, caregiver stress and physical abuse.

**Ohio – Eighteen Cincinnati RSVP** volunteers were inducted into the Cincinnati Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, sponsored by the City's Recreation Department to recognize contributions and achievements of the city's older citizens.

### ***National Senior Service Corps --- Getting Things Done***

#### ***Senior Corps Volunteers and Technology***

**Oklahoma – RSVP of Tulsa** now boasts 47 volunteer members in its RSVP Consulting Services group of retired professionals. Seven volunteers teach computer skills such as Internet navigation, e-mail and word processing at two senior residences. Senior Star, RSVP's corporate partner, equipped two computer labs, each with four workstations, at the sites. More than 100 students were trained since the program began a year and a half ago. One reason for the success, peer instructors for the senior residents.

**Wisconsin – RSVP of Dane County** quickly filled its 30 slots for two Computer Camps held in August of 1999. The Camp provided RSVP volunteers, who serve in schools, with basic computer orientation and word processing training. Responding to high demand, a second level program will be scheduled. A teacher from the Madison Metropolitan School District taught the classes, with volunteer assistants. Local students provided demonstrations of computer graphics technology. Participants reported increased confidence in using the technology and expected to be more helpful to the teachers when they returned to classroom-based volunteer assignments in the new school year.

## *National Senior Service Corps --- Getting Things Done*

### *The Hard Hurricane Season of 1999: Disaster Relief and Senior Corps*

**New Jersey -- RSVP of Somerset and Middlesex Counties** volunteers assisted with Hurricane Floyd relief efforts, covering shifts at relief stations, answering emergency calls, assisting in thrift stores and emergency food banks, and helping displaced residents with emergency shelter.

**North Carolina** – In the wake of devastating floods caused by Hurricanes Dennis and Floyd, Senior Corps projects mobilized to provide assistance to communities and victims.

- **Mountain Projects RSVP** volunteers in Waynesville helped to pack truck and deliver relief supplies, working with the United Way, Salvation Army, and the Red Cross.
- **Columbus County RSVP** volunteers in Whiteville distributed food and clothing with the Red Cross and Columbus County Help Mission. RSVP also assisted Southeastern Community College's electrical, mechanical, forestry, environmental and nursing class students and faculty to provide relief.
- **Guilford County RSVP and Foster Grandparent** projects in Greensboro publicized relief supply needs of seniors in eastern North Carolina and collected and shipped donations.
- **RSVP of Goldsboro/Wayne Counties** assembled first aid kits for local shelters and purchased supplies with cash donations through its "Good Samaritan Club".
- **New Hanover County RSVP and FGP** volunteers telephoned 600 clients of the Home Delivered Meals program and other frail elderly residents to identify any in need of evacuation or supplies. RSVP volunteers also provided transportation to shelters, delivered food and supplies, assisted at FEMA screening stations, and covered the Salvation Army's Disaster Hotline for a 3-county area.

### *Senior Corps and Safer Communities*

**Delaware -- New Castle County RSVP** volunteers helped produce ID badges for 4000 students to help the Christina School District improve school security following the Columbine High School shootings. The 21 volunteers used a digital camera and laptop computer to take pictures and send them via the Internet to the district office.

**Michigan -- Ingham/Eaton/Clinton Counties RSVP** in Lansing, in partnership with the Lansing School District and the Lansing Police Department, places volunteers in the Lansing Citizens United to Track Truants (C.U.T.T.) The program was organized to combat poor school attendance and reduce the number of crimes committed by juveniles during school hours. The daytime crime rate of juveniles was

## ***National Senior Service Corps --- Getting Things Done***

cut by between 25 to 28 percent and truancy is down by 20 percent. Plans are in the works to extend the program county-wide in cooperation with the Sheriff's Department.

**Oklahoma -- RSVP of Tulsa** and Domestic Violence Intervention Services Links (DVIS Links), a Tulsa agency, created Court Watch to collect information on how Tulsa County Misdemeanor and Protective Order Courts handle domestic violence cases. 25 RSVP volunteers first received two weeks of training. They were then placed in pairs to record statements and observe behavior and attitudes displayed in courtrooms. An article in *Tulsa World*, on September 21, notes: "By becoming the eyes and ears of the domestic violence court, DVIS Links officials hope seniors will improve the quality of a court that is becoming busier each year." The Tulsa program is patterned after successful Court Watch programs in Hawaii, Kentucky, Maryland, and Washington. Volunteers spend one-half day per week listening to cases. Funds from a small grant are earmarked to help volunteers with the cost of parking and lunches.

### ***Senior Corps and Child Literacy: Summertime and a New School Year***

**Maryland -- Anne Arundel County RSVP** placed 65 volunteers organized in eight teams with the county's public schools. The volunteers are reader-tutor teams take on a variety of assignments. They are tutors with First Focus, a reading readiness program for first graders; they help with phonemic awareness lessons using the Building Words program; provide math tutoring for fifth graders; and help build pre-literacy skills of kindergarten children.

**Minnesota -- RSVP of Freeborn County** placed 10 volunteers per week for a nine week "Sail into Reading" summer child literacy program in 1999. Based at a local shopping mall, 40-45 children attended each week. The children read 1, 299 books to the senior volunteers.

**Wisconsin -- RSVP of Dane County** placed 19 volunteer tutors for an 8-week summer reading camp at a local community center. RSVP volunteers tutored one-on-one with 32 second through fifth graders. Campers and tutors reported numerous success stories in reading and intergenerational exchange. The program concluded with distribution of several books to each student by the First Book-Dane County Advisory Board. AmericaCorps\*VISTA member Deanna Sasaki-Adams of the United Way Schools of Hope Project helped coordinate the program with RSVP staff. Similar programs are planned for next summer.

### ***Environment***

**Virginia -- Alexandria RSVP** helped launch the first Virginia Senior Environment Corps in September, one of eight new Virginia Senior Environment Corps programs created under an agreement between the Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement (EASI) and the Commonwealth. Several state and federal departments collaborate, and 80 seniors already signed up as potential participants. AmericaCorps\*VISTA is 4 cost share and 4 standard VISTA members with the Environment Corps.



## ***Resources***

***Learn More About Senior Corps Project Activities*** -- Corporation staff, Senior Corps project directors and other interested parties can receive upon request copies of issue lists -- information about what Senior Corps projects are doing in a particular service area, organized alphabetically by state. These lists are considered ongoing works-in-progress and are not necessarily comprehensive. They include information about projects gleaned from state office's weekly reports and from projects themselves.

Issue lists that are currently available include:

- |                          |                                |                            |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. America Reads         | 7. Public Safety               | 13. Respite for Caregivers |
| 2. Community Development | 8. Mentoring                   | 14. Housing/Homelessness   |
| 3. Environment           | 9. Technology                  | 15. Independent Living     |
| 4. Non-federal Funding   | 10. Child Care                 | 16. Nutrition and Hunger   |
| 5. Collaboration         | 11. Unified State Plans        | 17. Health                 |
| 6. Disaster Relief       | 12. Intergenerational Projects |                            |

To receive copies of any list, please contact **Gloria Godwin**, (202) 606-5000 extension 189 or e-mail [ggodwin@cns.gov](mailto:ggodwin@cns.gov)

### ***Funding and Resource Development Resources:***

***Funding Across the Ages: A Tool Kit.*** This concise, user-friendly 38-page booklet from Grantmakers in Aging (GIA) is designed to help grantmakers understand aging trends and the opportunities created and will also be useful to grant seekers in developing proposals. Chapters include an overview of aging trends; concepts, steps, and resources for developing a grantmaking relationship; specific program areas: Intergenerational Programs, Education, Neighborhood Involvement, and Health; and resource information and materials. Relevant information may be freely copied. GIA is an educational nonprofit membership organization for staff and trustees of foundations and corporations concerned with aging. For information contact GIA, P.O. Box 5534, New York, NY 10185-5534, Tel: 212-877-2050.

### ***Funding Resources and "E- Philanthropy "***

The following web sites are worth a visit:

[www.helping.org](http://www.helping.org) -- Sponsored by America Online, this site allows users to search by location, topic, find volunteer opportunities or make online credit card donations.

[www.charitableway.com](http://www.charitableway.com) – Evaluates thousand of charities and attempts to find the right one for a particular donor.

[www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com) – Enables users to choose charities, including local ones, that will benefit from the users' online purchases at igive.com mall.

**Senior Corps Update** is dispatched by e-mail to Corporation State Offices on the first Friday of each month. Please continue to share with Senior Corps Project Directors and other colleagues. **Editor:** Angela Roberts, National Senior Service Corps., **202-606-5000 ext. 111** or e-mail to [aroberts@cns.gov](mailto:aroberts@cns.gov). **Comments, ideas and suggestions welcome !**